

**S E C R E T**

OSA-0915-68

7 March 1968

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Telecon with C. L. Johnson**

1. On 6 March Kelly called to relate the following:

a) He had concluded satisfactorily negotiations with [redacted] and the EARNING project officers relating to the Lockheed SR-71 contract.

b) He asked that three [redacted] people be cleared IDEALIST to enable him to discuss possible installation of [redacted] in the U-2R.

c) He was pleased to report that the 5-inch tailpipe extension to the U-2R had solved the take-off roll swerve problem; however, the addition had resulted in unusually high, audible vibrations that made the U-2R sound like an F-104 in afterburner. Kelly said he is having his people cut back on the extension to about 3-1/2 inches. He feels this may alleviate the problem.

2. I told Kelly that we have had several reviews of the [redacted] proposal at Headquarters. I related the following concerns:

a) The cost was much too high; in my view, about [redacted] too high.

b) The engineering hours [redacted] seemed unusually high. Kelly said this represented the efforts of 20 engineers on the program and the high number is largely attributable to the radar cross section program required to accomplish our goals.

c) I said I was disturbed about the tooling cost (about [redacted] when compared to the tooling costs of the U-2R. Kelly said that hard tooling would be required and this was reflected in the cost quotes.

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**S E C R E T**

3. I told Kelly that during our review of other competitive systems we took a look at the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which costs about [REDACTED] per copy. I admitted that the range of this drone was somewhat limited, but it may do some of the missions considered for [REDACTED]. Therefore, it very likely would be a real competitor for Kelly's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I felt that unless Kelly could do something about the cost we would never be able to sell the program. I suggested that he take a hard look at his proposal since we are at the moment at an impasse.

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[REDACTED]  
JOHN PARANGOSKY  
DD/SA

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- 1 - Compt/OSA
- 1 - D/O
- 1 - D/M
- 1 - SS
- 1 - DD/SA
- 1 - RB/OSA

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**S E C R E T**